



# THE BROADBAND EQUITY ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM

FUNDED BY THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE'S NATIONAL  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

MAY 2022



# BEAD program will provide ~\$42.45B for infrastructure planning and implementation

**Funding pool**  
\$42.45B

A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it to and increase adoption of high-speed Internet.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Entities eligible to apply for this program include:

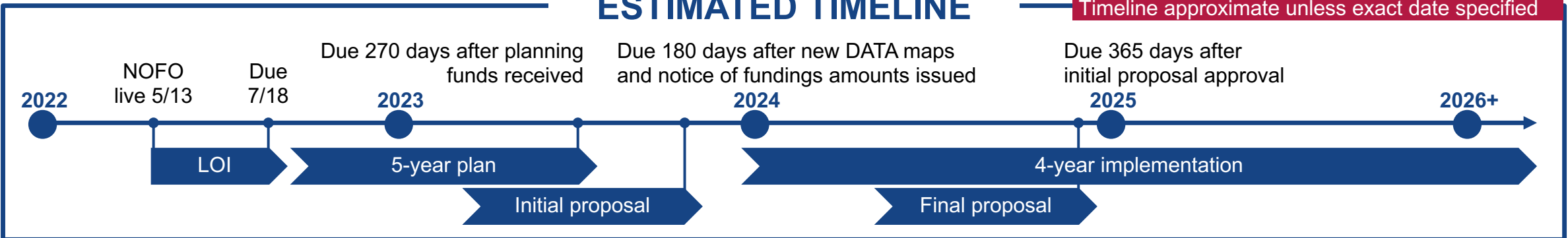
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

### Example eligible uses of funds include:

- ☆ Planning for deployment of Internet
- ☆ Deploying or upgrading Internet
- ☆ Installing Internet in multi-tenant buildings
- ☆ Implementing adoption and digital equity programs
- ☆ Workforce and job training

## ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



# BEAD funding includes three components and is based on new FCC maps

Three components of funding:

<p><b>Minimum allocation</b></p>	<p>\$100M for each state, D.C., and Puerto Rico</p> <p>\$25M for U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands</p>
<p><b>High-cost allocation</b></p>	$\frac{\text{\# unserved locations in high-cost areas in the Eligible Entity}}{\text{\# unserved locations in high-cost areas in the US}} \times \$4.245B$
<p><b>Remaining funds allocation</b></p>	$\frac{\text{\# unserved locations in the Eligible Entity}}{\text{\# unserved locations in the US}} \times \text{Remaining funds}^1$

**New FCC Broadband DATA Maps** will be utilized to identify unserved locations

Eligible Entities shall develop a **challenge process** for stakeholders to challenge whether a location or community anchor institution is eligible for grant funds

Eligible Entities must **document the final list** of unserved locations, underserved locations, and eligible community anchor institutions

1. \$41.6B – minimum initial allocation – high-cost allocation

# BEAD will prioritize Complete coverage of unserved locations and underserved locations (where funding permits), then CAIs



## First, Eligible Entities must serve all unserved locations (incl. serving multi-tenant buildings)

- **Unserved locations** without reliable Internet and with download speeds <25 Mbps, upload speeds <3 Mbps, and latency < 100ms



## Second, Eligible Entities must serve all underserved locations

- **Underserved locations** without reliable Internet and with download speeds <100 Mbps, upload speeds <20 Mbps, and latency <100 ms



## Next, NTIA strongly urges Eligible Entities serve Eligible Community Anchor Institutions

- **Eligible Community Anchor Institutions** are entities (e.g., school, library, hospital) that facilitate greater use of high-speed Internet service by vulnerable populations and have download speed <1 Gbps
- **Other eligible uses** include affordability programs, cybersecurity training, workforce development., etc.
- If an Eligible Entity wants to use funds for other eligible uses instead of eligible Community Anchor Institutions, then it must provide a strong rationale

# The BEAD Program will include a low-cost broadband service option for all Eligible Subscribers



## Low-cost option is available to Eligible Subscribers

- **Eligible Subscriber** means any household that qualifies for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) or a successor program

Please see the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) website for more details on the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) ([link](#))

## Eligible Entities will define parameters for low-cost plans

Eligible Entities will define the parameters for low-cost plans while considering the following:

- Provider participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program or other household subsidies
- Expected cost to an Eligible Subscriber after subsidies
- Technical performance of the plan (e.g., Internet speed)

## Description of an example low-cost plan

- **Cost:** ≤\$30 incl. taxes and fees (≤\$75 for tribal land residents)
- **Subsidies:** Can apply Affordable Connectivity Benefit subsidies
- **Speed:** ≥100 Mbps for downloads and ≥20 Mbps for uploads
- **Latency:** ≤100 ms
- **Extra fees:** No data caps or surcharges
- **Upgrades:** Can later upgrade to new low-cost offerings at no cost

# Eligible Entities must conduct local coordination activities as part of plan development and implementation



## Geographic coverage



Coordination must include Tribal, rural, suburban, and urban areas

Each political subdivision and Tribe must be given:

- Opportunity to submit a plan for Eligible Entity consideration
- Opportunity to comment on Eligible Entity proposals



## Diverse stakeholders



Coordination must include a diverse group of stakeholders

Eligible Entities must ensure Tribal or Native entities are involved in developing plans (incl. via a formal Tribal consultation process)

Example stakeholders include state agencies, community anchor institutions, etc.



## Outreach mechanisms



Coordination must include multiple mechanisms to ensure broad awareness and participation

Example mechanisms include listening sessions, public meetings, websites, social media, etc.



## Transparency



Coordination must include clear procedures to ensure transparency

Examples include websites, periodic reports, in-person meetings, etc.



## Un-/underserved and under-represented communities



Coordination must target un-/underserved, and underrepresented communities that have historically faced barriers in participating in federal programs

Examples include an advisory board with representatives, surveys to better understand needs, etc.

# Every stakeholder plays a role in the BEAD program

Illustrative, non-exhaustive

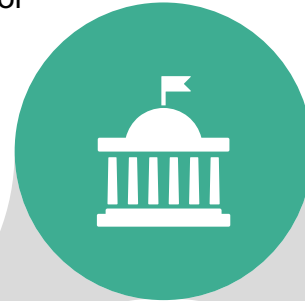
## Telecom provider

- Apply to be a BEAD subgrantee
- *Note: Telecom providers may include government-owned entities*



## Community anchor institution

- Benefit from BEAD funding for faster Internet
- Advocate for community interests across programs



## Community orgs

- Coordinate on planning and execution
- Advocate for community interests across programs



## Tribal government

- Coordinate, consult, and partner with states during BEAD planning



## Local government

- Collaborate with states during BEAD planning



## Individual

- Participate in digital skill and literacy courses funded by programs
- Contact local reps for more information

## Additional resources about the BEAD Program

- 1 Visit the [InternetForAll.gov](https://InternetForAll.gov) for additional information on federal funding programs
- 2 Engage with your State or territory regarding their plans to improve high-speed Internet access
- 3 Submit questions to [BEAD@ntia.gov](mailto:BEAD@ntia.gov)
- 4 Attend future NTIA webinars, including program-specific application guidance webinars for applicants





# DIGITAL EQUITY ACT PROGRAMS

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# Digital Equity Act created three programs to promote digital equity and inclusion

**Funding pool**  
**\$2.75B**

Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed Internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.

## PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTS

The Digital Equity Act created three programs:

### State Planning

- \$60M formula funding program to develop digital equity plans

### State Capacity

- \$1.44B formula funding program to implement plans & promote digital inclusion

### Competitive

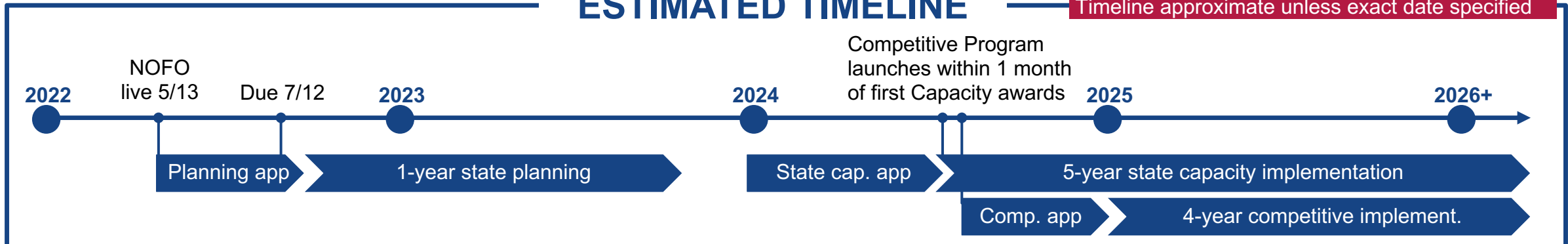
- \$1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

Example eligible uses of funds across three programs include:

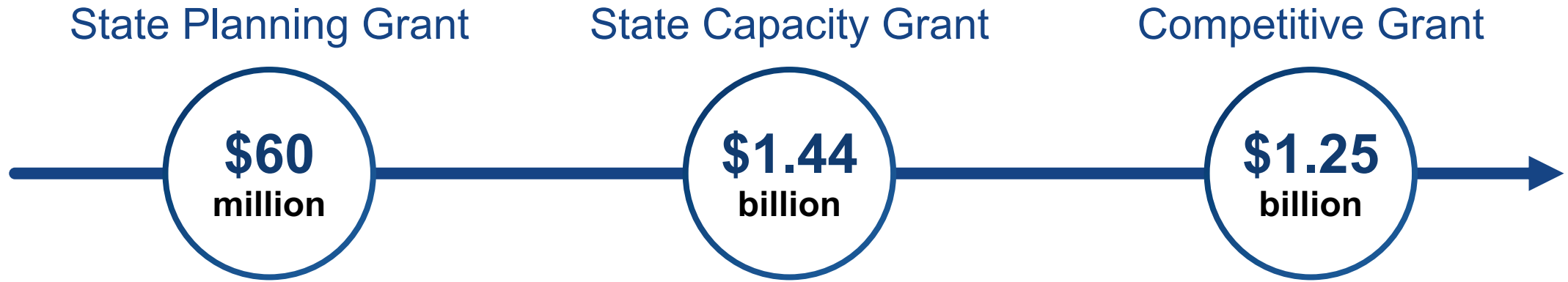
- ☆ Developing digital equity plans; states must develop a plan to be eligible for state capacity grants
- ☆ Making awards to other entities to help make digital equity plans
- ☆ Improving accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
- ☆ Implementing digital equity plans and related activities
- ☆ Providing digital literacy and digital skills education
- ☆ Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet

## ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



The programs are sequential and participation in planning is essential to receive capacity (i.e., implementation) funds



	State Planning Grant	State Capacity Grant	Competitive Grant
<b>Who</b>	Open to <b>U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico</b>	Open to U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, that <b>completed the State Planning Program</b>	Open to <b>certain entities</b> , such as political subdivisions, Tribal entities, nonprofits, community anchor institutions, local educational agencies, and workforce development orgs
<b>What</b>	Grants will be used to <b>develop a State Digital Equity Plan</b>	Grants will be used to <b>implement State Digital Equity Plans</b>	Grants will be used to <b>develop and implement digital inclusion activities</b>

Other U.S. territories, Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian orgs have a separate statutory set-aside and separate program requirements under the State Planning and Capacity Programs, as detailed on the next page

# The Digital Equity Act focuses on addressing the needs of "covered populations" as defined by the statute

## Covered Populations

*Identity groups and communities disproportionately impacted by digital inequity*



Low-income households



People with disabilities



Aging populations



People with language barriers



Incarcerated individuals



Racial and ethnic minorities



Veterans



Rural inhabitants

# Programs' funds can be used for different purposes



## Uses of State Planning Grant funds

- **Developing State Digital Equity Plans**
- **Making subgrants** to other entities, such as community anchor institutions, municipalities, Indian Tribes, nonprofits, and other organizations, that help develop the Digital Equity Plan



## Uses of State Capacity and Competitive Grant funds

- **Updating and implementing State Digital Equity Plans (Capacity)**
- Pursuing **digital inclusion activities**
- Facilitating **adoption** of high-speed Internet
- Implementing **training and workforce development programs**
- Making **equipment and software** for high-speed Internet services available
- Constructing or upgrading **public access computer centers**

State Planning and Capacity funds will be allocated proportionally based on the State's population, share of members of covered populations, and relative lack of availability and adoption among residents

NTIA and the U.S. Census Bureau have collaborated to create the Digital Equity Act Population Viewer, which shows covered population totals for each state and other inputs into the funding formula

# Eligible entities are required to engage with key stakeholders as a part of developing digital equity plans

## Key stakeholder groups may include:

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- Community anchor institutions
- County and municipal governments
- Local educational agencies
- Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, or Native Hawaiian organizations, where applicable
- Nonprofit organizations
- Organizations that represent covered populations
- Civil rights organizations
- Entities that carry out workforce development programs
- State agencies that administer or supervise adult education or literacy activities
- Public housing authorities

# Additional resources about the Digital Equity Programs

- 1 Visit the [InternetForAll.gov](https://InternetForAll.gov) for additional information on federal funding programs
- 2 Engage with your State or territory regarding their plans to improve high-speed Internet access and achieve digital equity
- 3 Submit questions to [digitalequity@ntia.gov](mailto:digitalequity@ntia.gov)
- 4 Attend future NTIA webinars, including program-specific application guidance webinars for applicants

## Contact Info

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